

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 QUITO 08284 232345Z

67

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 SSO-00 DHA-02 H-02 L-03

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O 232320Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2330

UNCLAS QUITO 8284

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, EC (BISSELL, JANE)

SUBJECT: W/W JANE BISSELL

REF: A. STATE 272217; B. QUITO 7501

1. ON NOVEMBER 23 OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE AMBRO SPOKE BY TELEPHONE TO LT. COL. JOSE JULIO RIVERA MONTERO, POLICE COMMANDER OF TUNGURAHUA PROVINCE IN WHICH BANOS LOCATED. CONGRESSMAN'S OFFICE THEN TELEPHONED EMBASSY TO STATE THAT COL. RIVERA HAD STATED THAT BISSELL SIGHTED SUBSEQUENT TO DATE OF REPORTED DISAPPEARANCE. EMBASSY CONFIRMED THAT THE TRACES TO WHICH COL. RIVERA REFERRED WERE THOSE DESCRIBED IN REPORT OF POLICE INVESTIGATION, ALL OF WHICH WERE PRIOR TO THE DATE BISSELL DISAPPEARED. CABLING ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF POLICE REPORT SEPARATELY. COPY OF REPORT SENT TO FATER AS WELL AS DEPARTMENT.

2. DCM AND VICE CONSUL LEBOURGEOIS SPOKE TO CONGRESSMAN AMBRO AND CLARIFIED ABOVE. CONGRESSMAN RECOGNIZED EMBASSY HAS TAKEN EFFECTIVE MEASURES IN CASE AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION. HE REPEATED, HOWEVER, HIS REQUEST, WHICH HE SAID HAD BEEN MADE PREVIOUSLY TO DEPARTMENT, FOR A BRIEFING. ALSO WISHES TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS IN CASE. EMBASSY ASSURED CONGRESSMAN THAT IT WAS CONTINUING EFFORTS LOCATE BISSELL.

3. THIS IS SECOND INSTANCE IN RECENT MONTHS IN WHICH A CONGRESSMAN'S OFFICE HAS SOUGHT TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH ECUADOREAN POLICE OFFICIALS. WE QUESTION APPROPRIATENESS OF SUCH ACTION,
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AND SUGGEST THAT EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT CONFUSION RATHER THAN

PROGRESS IS MOST LIKELY RESULT OF SUCH INTERVENTION, WHICH ALSO
RESENTED BY ECUADOREAN OFFICIALS. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH CONSIDER
MAKING A GENERAL REPRESENTATION TO CONGRESS ON QUESTION OF
DIRECT APPROACHES TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

4. SINCE REPORT CONTAINED IN REF B, COPIES OF PHOTOGRAPH
PROVIDED BY FATHER HAVE BEEN REPRODUCED AND FORWARDED TO COL.
RIVERA AND BISSELL'S DESCRIPTION
BROADCAST OVER AMERICAN MISSIONARY RADIO.
BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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